Wheatley
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

to the

Urban District Council,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1903.

Doncaster :

WILSON & MONKS, Printers, 25 & 26, Scot Lane.

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1904.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Urban District of Wheatley is situated to the North of the Borough of Doncaster. It is bounded on the North by the parish of Bentley-with-Arksey, on the South by Doncaster, and on the East by the parish of Kirk Sandall. The district is almost purely residential, there being no industries of any importance ; the majority of the inhabitants finding employment in Doncaster, either at the Great Northern Railway or other Works.

THE GEOLOGICAL FORMATION

Of the subsoil throughout is of sand and gravel, which renders the foundation of the houses nearly always dry. The highest surface level is about 79 feet above the Ordnance Datum, and the lowest is 34, near the river Don. The area of the District (exclusive of area covered by water), is 1,276 acres, giving the average density of 3·1 persons to the acre.

POPULATION.

When the Census was taken in 1901, it was found that the inhabitants of Wheatley numbered 3,579, in contrast with 1,795 in 1891, an increase of practically one hundred per cent. In calculating the population for 1903 the estimate is formed upon this increase, and, great though this increase is, there is every likelihood that the population of 3,980, thus estimated, will be found not unduly magnified.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate of Wheatley has always been extremely low, even when its residential character, its freedom from slums, the absence of dangerous or unhealthy occupations is taken into account. The rate has varied from 13·3 in 1895, on an estimated population of 2,550, to so low a figure as 8·9 in 1902, with an estimated population of 3,800. The average rate working out at 11·4 for an average population of 3,175. This year, undoubtedly owing to a rather heavy infantile mortality bill, the number of deaths shows a considerable increase over 1902, 46 deaths having been registered against 34 in the previous 12 months, yielding an annual death rate of 11·4 per 1,000, in contrast with 8·9 in 1902. Although this figure shows a considerable increase over that of 1902, it must be remembered that year was the healthiest one in England on record. To the number of deaths which occurred in Wheatley, have, however, to be added the deaths of residents in the district who died in Public Institutions beyond its borders. Adding these, the number of deaths is increased to 50, making the Death Rate for Wheatley **12·6.** The Death Rate of the neighbouring Urban Districts are as follows:—Doncaster, 16·4 ; Balby-with-Hexthorpe, 16·6; and the combined Township, which had an estimated population at the middle of the year of 40,934, 16·1 per 1,000.

BIRTH RATE.

During the past twelve months a larger number of births has been recorded than in any former year in the history of Wheatley. The total number was **126,** of whom 67 were males and 59 females. The highest number previous to this was 119, in 1900, and the lowest 66, in 1895. In 1902, the number was only 104. The Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population is for the year, 31·6, a very satisfactory rate when compared with the low figure of 27·9 in 1902. This rate, although slightly above the average of the previous eight years (31·0), is very considerabley less than the record one of 1900 (34·5), and the high rate of 33·3 in 1898. The Birth Rates for the neighbouring Urban Districts for the year are :—Doncaster, 25·6; Balby-with-Hexthorpe, 33·0; and the combined Township, 27·5. The **excess** of births over deaths was 80. In 1902, the excess of births was 65.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of Deaths of Children under 1 year of age during the previous years has been upon the average 13·3, equivalent to a proportion of 135·8 deaths for every 1,000 children born. In 1902 the number of deaths was much below this average, yielding an infantile mortality rate which I described in my last Annual Return as "one of the most favourable features in an altogether favourable report." This year, I regret to say, this favourable rate has not been maintained, for no less than 18 children under 1 year of age have died within the past twelve months, yielding the comparatively heavy mortality rate of 142·8 per 1,000 births.

With reference to the subject of infantile mortality, it is held that an annual death rate among infants of 100 per 1,000 is unavoidable from many causes, however good the surroundings, however maternal care is exercised. Thus, a certain portion of infants are premature, and cannot all survive; some are born with malformations and other defects, which soon terminate their existence, others, the offspring of weakly parents, cannot long survive, and, in spite of all care, there is a large proportion who will succumb to one or other of the many ailments to which infancy is liable. Granting that an annual death rate among infants of 100 per 1,000 is unavoidable, it follows that anything above this may be held to be preventable, and, this being so, the last year's rate of 145 is far from satisfactory, and the lower average rate of the previous eight years (135·8) shows considerable room for improvement. The necessary means to bring about this desirable result are unfortunately so difficult of application that even in the best districts the loss of life is usually found, as in our case, to be in excess of the standard.

There is no doubt that "improper feeding" is a very important factor in the production of a heavy mortality rate among infants. Far too much reliance is placed upon the various artificial food stuffs, condensed milks, and other concoctions, while the too frequently observed custom of giving the unhappy child a share of "whatever is going" is undoubtedly a fertile source of diarrhœa and many other disorders of the stomach and bowels, convulsions, &c., which are among the chief causes of infantile loss of life. The mere fact that when the sufferings and starvation caused by the Seige of Paris doubled the general mortality rate, but reduced the infantile mortality by no less than 40 per cent., simply by mothers being compelled by circumstances to **suckle their children**, points to one factor which would largely tend to reduce the heavy mortality rate which the county has been, and is experiencing. Nearer home, the same result was shown during the Lancashire cotton famine, when the mothers, no longer at work in the mills, stayed at home and nursed their children.

The Infantile Mortality rate for Balby-with-Hexthorpe is 185·1; for the Borough of Doncaster, 181·8; and for the combined Township, 178·1.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The term Zymotic Death Rate, covers the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases, namely, small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, "fever" (typhus, simple continued and enteric), and diarrhœa. The rate is a popular but very unsafe standard of the health of a community, as it is liable to great fluctuation, according to the epidemic prevalence of one or other of the diseases mentioned. It may, however, be safely held that a high death rate from enteric fever, diphtheria, or diarrhœa, implies a defective sanitary state, if accidental or temporary causes such as climatic conditions or accidental contamination of milk or water can be excluded. In spite of the fact that whooping cough was epidemic in Wheatley during September, October, and November, the number of deaths from zymotic disease is low. Of the 50 deaths from all causes which occurred within the district, only 4 were due to zymotic disease, two deaths occurring from diphtheria, one from diarrhœa, and one from erysipelas. The zymotic death rate for the past twelve months is 1·0 per 1,000, but, low as this rate is, it exhibits a slight increase over the preceding year, when only 2 deaths occurred from zymotic disease, yielding a rate of ·8 per 1,000. The zymotic death rate for 1901, it may be mentioned, was 1·7, and the average rate of the preceding ten years 1·4. The rate, as already mentioned, is liable to great fluctuation, and is a very unsatisfactory index to the health or sanitary condition of a community; for a high mortality due to an outbreak of measles, whooping cough, or scarlatina in schools, although calling for preventive measures, may be of far less enduring import than a lower death rate from enteric fever or diphtheria.

TUBERCULAR DEATH RATE.

Nine deaths were registered as due to tubercular disease, giving a tubercular death rate of 2·2, in contrast with 2·3 in 1902, and 1·4 in 1901. Of the nine deaths, 5 were due to phthisis, giving a rate of 1·2 per 1,000, as compared with 1·6 in 1902.

The handbill calling attention to the dangers attending the habit of spitting, which was largely circulated in the district in 1902, both by house to house distribution and by placarding on street corners, and a copy of which was given in the supplement to the Annual Report for 1902 (Prevention of Consumption, No. 1), was found to be issued in too small type to fix the attention of those scanning it. In order to accomplish this, the following shorter, and bolder typed bill has been circulated:—

"PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

"NOTICE AS TO SPITTING.

"DO NOT SPIT. This disgusting habit CAUSES OTHERS to take CONSUMPTION."

The handbill, I am convinced, if its success may be judged by no other standard than the frequency with which its brief wording has been quoted **verbatim** in my hearing, must prove a very helpful factor in putting an end to a habit, which, even if it possessed no public health importance might well have a more forcible adjective to describe it than the comparatively mild term "disgusting." It affords me considerable satisfaction, however, to say that ocular inspection of our streets and pavements will serve to convince the merest casual observer that the handbills have been of practical utility, although no one can deny that much improvement is still required. The day, however, is surely, if slowly, coming when expectoration in public places will be considered offensive by every citizen. If one must spit, a street gully is generally sufficiently near at hand to receive expectoration among the other waste and offensive matters for which it is intended.

With regard to the proposed 50 bed Sanatorium for the West Riding, no further information concerning the proposal or forwardness of the scheme has reached the Urban District Council. It has, however, always been my opinion that the Urban Districts under my care—the Borough of Doncaster, the Urban District of Balby-with-Hexthorpe, and the Urban District of Wheatley—are of themselves of such importance as to justify the provision of such an institution for themselves. The Hospital at Balby might well be utilised, when small-pox is not prevalent in the county, as a Sanatorium for Consumptives. The building is well situated, admirably built, the wards large and airy, and a caretaker and matron are always in attendance. A few simple structural alterations, and the provision of a nurse, would be the sole requisites required. Although the matter has not been formally dealt with, it gives me the greatest pleasure to state that the three authorities concerned have all signified their readiness to afford this great help in the crusade against Consumption in our midst, by providing these requisites whenever Small-pox has disappeared from the County, and I am prepared to furnish a working scheme for the use of the building.

The population of Wheatley is as yet too small to give a table affording a reliable idea of the prevalence of Tubercle in our midst, but by following the methods of last year, and taking the deaths from the combined Districts under my care having a population of over 40,000, its prevalence may be readily manifested.

Combined District—Doncaster, Balby-with-Hexthorpe, and Wheatley.

Deaths at various Age-periods from Tubercular Diseases in the year 1903, with average for preceding 2 years, compared with deaths from Miasmatic Diseases and from all causes.

	Year.	Number of Deaths.					Proportion of Deaths from Tubercular Diseases to Deaths from all causes
		Phthisis.	Other Tubercular Diseases.	All Tubercular Diseases.	All Miasmatic Diseases.	All Causes.	
All Ages.	1903	45	27	72	86	660	1 : 9
	Average 1901-2.	46	23	69	60	593	1 : 8
Infant Period 0-5 years.	1903	3	20	23	67	277	1 : 12
	Average 1901-2.	5	18	23	43	219	1 : 9
School Period 5-15 years.	1903.	2	1	3	6	20	1 : 6
	Average 1901-2.	3	2	5	3	22	1 : 4
Adolescent Period 15-25 yrs.	1903.	12	0	12	1	21	1 : 1·7
	Average 1901-2.	6	1	7	1	26	1 : 3
Mature Period 25-65 yrs.	1903.	28	6	34	8	202	1 : 6
	Average 1901-2.	31	2	33	8	177	1 : 5
Post-Mature Period 65+years.	1903.	0	0	0	4	140	0 : 140
	Average 1901-2.	1	0	1	5	149	1 : 149

The Table shows that the number of deaths which occurred from Phthisis was nearly the same as the average of the two preceding years, while the number of fatal cases from other Tubercular causes was slightly above the average; altogether, 72 deaths from Tubercular Disease occurred in the combined Township, in contrast with an average of 69 for the two preceding years. As 67 more deaths from all causes occurred, however, in 1903, than the average of the two former years, the proportion of deaths from Tubercular Diseases to deaths from all causes exhibits a slight decrease. Out of every 9 deaths one was due to Tubercular Disease in 1903. The average of the former years was one out of every eight deaths.

At the Infant age period (0—5 years), Phthisis shows a considerable decrease, only 3 deaths having occurred, against an average of 5 in 1901-2; but the number of Tubercular deaths at this period comes to the average figure, viz.:—23. In the School period (5—15 years), 2 deaths were due to Consumption, in contrast with a former average of 3. At the Adolescent period there was a marked increase. No less than 12 deaths occurred in 1903, in contrast with an average of 6 in the former years. As only 21 deaths occurred from all causes in 1903, the proportion of deaths from Tubercular diseases to all causes is as 1 is to 1·7. In other words, out of every 3 deaths which occurred at this period of life, 2 were due to Consumption. The mature period (25—65 years), marks a slight decline, while in the Post-Mature period (65+ years), no deaths were due to Tubercular Disease.

VOLUNTARY NOTIFICATION OF PHTHISIS.

The Voluntary Notification of Phthisis came into force on January 1st, 1902. All Medical Practitioners in the District being invited to notify cases of Tubercular Phthisis (Consumption) occurring in their practices, the customary fee being paid for such notification, but in order to obviate any difficulty that might arise over questions of diagnosis, the presence of Tubercle Bacilli in the sputum, as determined by bacteriological examination, was made the basis of notification.

During the twelve months 4 cases of Consumption were notified. In each case information, in the form of a leaflet, was supplied to the head of the household as to the infectious nature of the disease, the manner in which it spreads, and how such spread is best prevented. Disinfection of the houses, bedding, and clothing was offered, and will be given from time to time as required. Particular investigations were made in each instance regarding the sanitary condition of the houses, and where defects were discovered, these were at once attended to. In one of the cases, the previous tenant of the house had died from Consumption.

Although few cases of the disease have been officially brought under my notice, I regard the adoption of the Voluntary Notification of Consumption as a very useful and important measure in the crusade against the disease.

ALCOHOLISM.

One death was certified as due to Alcoholism, the same number was registered in 1902.

From **Cancer**, only one death occurred, in contrast with 4 in the preceding twelve months.

From **Diseases of the Heart,** 3 deaths arose. **Pneumonia** also gave the same number of fatal cases. No less than 4 deaths were ascribed to **Accidental Causes**, equivalent to a rate of slightly over 1 per 1,000, and accounting for an increase of this amount in the general Death Rate for the year, no deaths having been ascribed to accident in 1902.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year only twelve cases of Infectious Disease have been notified by Medical Practitioners under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act. During 1902, 32 cases were notified, and in 1901, 18. For the sake of comparison the following table is appended :—

Disease.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Diphtheria	4	4	6
Scarlatina	7	15	2
Typhoid	5	7	2
Erysipelas	2	6	1
Small-pox	0	0	1
Total	18	32	12

From the above table it will be seen that the principal decrease has been in Scarlatina cases, only 2 cases of the disease having come under observation during the twelve months under review. The cases, which were both benignant in type, occurred in Jubilee Road and St. Mary's Road. Examination of the houses revealed no marked insanitary conditions, and no clue to the source of infection was obtainable. One of the patients was removed to the Hospital, and the other, isolation being possible, was treated at home. Diphtheria yielded 6 cases in 1903, an increase of 2 over 1902. Of the 6 cases, 4 were treated in Hospital, and 2 isolated at home, one of the latter and one of the former cases ended fatally. Of the six houses, 4 had privy ashpits, and 2 water-closets. Two of the former were found to be in an unsatisfactory state, and one of the latter had no ventilating shaft. One of the houses was in an extremely dirty condition. Of the Typhoid Fever cases there has been a very satisfactory decrease. Only 2 cases having been notified during the year, and one of the cases was of an extremely doubtful character. One case of erysipelas was notified during the twelve months, against 6 in 1902, and 2 in 1901. It is gratifying to note that no case of Puerperal Fever

RETURN OF CASES OF SMALL-POX.

No.	Date.	Initials.	Address.	District.	Occupation. Length of Residence.	Sex	Age	Type of Disease.	Vaccinated or Unvaccinated	Probable Source of Infection.	Date of Admission to Hospital.	Date of Discharge.	Remarks.
					FIRST OUTBREAK.								
1	Dec. 26, 1902	J.B.	Union Workhouse ...	Balby ...	Tramp	M	40	mild	No trace ...	Uncertain...	Dec. 26, 1902	Feb. 9, 1903	Cured
			With the above case		there were 6 contacts, of whom the following acquired the disease:—								
2	Jan. 8, 1903	J.N.	Union Workhouse ...	Balby ...	Employee at Workhouse ...	M	28	mild	Vaccinated ...	From Case 1	Jan. 8, 1903	,, 13, ,,	Cured
			From this case there were 2 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.										
					SECOND OUTBREAK.								
3	,, 5, ,,	N.L.	13B, French Gate ...	Doncaster	Housekeeper	F	36	severe	Unvaccinated	From Tramps	Jan. 5, 1903	Died, Jan. 11	Died
			From this case there were 18 contacts, of whom the following acquired the disease:—										
4	,, 5, ,,	Mrs. B.	13B, French Gate ...	Doncaster	Wife of Lodging-house keeper	F	45	mild	Vaccinated ...	From Case 3	,, 5, ,,	Feb. 9, 1903	Cured
5	,, 5, ,,	T.B.	Do. ...	Do.	Son of do.	M	18	mild	Do. ...	Do.	,, 5, ,,	,, 13, ,,	Cured
6	,, 5, ,,	J.B.	Do. ...	Do.	Son of do.	M	20	mild	Do. ...	Do.	,, 5, ,,	,, 9, ,,	Cured
					THIRD OUTBREAK.								
7	Feb. 1, ,,	R.T.	18, Hexthorpe Road...	Doncaster	At Crimpsall Erecting Shop	M	19	moderate	Vaccinated ...	Wakefield...	Feb. 1, 1903	Mar. 13, 1903	Cured
			With the above case		there were 13 contacts, of whom the following acquired the disease:—								
8	,, 11, ,,	C.C.	82, Urban Road ...	Hexthorpe	None	F	10	mild	Vaccinated ...	From Case 7	,, 11, ,,	,, 28, ,,	Cured
9	,, 13, ,,	E.H.T.	10, Laughton Road ...	Do.	Engineer's Apprentice ...	M	19	mild	Vaccinated ...	Do.	,, 13, ,,	,, 13, ,,	Cured
			From these cases there were 9 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.										
					FOURTH OUTBREAK.								
10	,, 21, ,,	J.J.	10, Milner's Yard ...	Doncaster	Tramp (2 days)	M	42	mild	Vaccinated ...	Came from Barnsley & Wath	Feb. 21, 1903	Mar. 22, 1903	Cured
			With the above case		there were 8 contacts, of whom 1 acquired the disease:—								
11	Mch. 6, ,,	M.M.	10, Milner's Yard ...	Doncaster	Pedlar's Wife	F	36	mild	Vaccinated ...	From Case 10	Mar. 6, ,,	Apr. 16, ,,	Cured
					FIFTH OUTBREAK.								
12	,, 4, ,,	W.E.	33, Upper Oxford St.	Doncaster	Works at Arnold's	M	40	moderate	Vaccinated ...	Liverpool	Mar. 4, 1903	Apr. 24, 1903	Cured
			From this case there were 4 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.										
					SIXTH OUTBREAK.								
13	,, 19, ,,	T.H.	Union Workhouse ...	Balby ...	Tramp	M	35	moderate	Vaccinated ...	Ripley	Mar. 19, 1903	Apr. 24, 1903	Cured
			From this case there was 1 contact, who did not acquire the disease.										
					SEVENTH OUTBREAK.								
14	Sep. 25, ,,	E.C.	22, High Fisher Gate	Doncaster	Mason (about 2 month) ...	M	43	moderate	In Infancy ...	Tramps	Sep. 25, ,,	Nov. 16, ,,	Cured
			With the above case		there were 22 contacts, 3 of whom acquired the disease.								
15	,, 27, ,,	W.B.	41, French Gate ...	Doncaster	Slaughter-man, Resident ...	M	36	moderate	In Infancy ...	From Case No. 14	,, 27, ,,	,, 23, ,,	Cured
			With the above case		there were 4 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.								
16	,, 27, ,,	W.S.	8, King Street	Doncaster	Bricklayer, Resident	M	40	moderate	In Infancy ...	From Case No. 14	,, 27, ,,	,, 16, ,,	Cured
			With this case there		were 8 contacts, 1 of whom acquired the disease.								
17	Oct. 1, ,,	F.L.	14, Low Fisher Gate	Doncaster	Mason, (about 4 weeks) ...	M	42	moderate	In Infancy ...	From Case No. 14	Oct. 1, ,,	,, 11, ,,	Cured
			With the above case		there were 12 contacts, 1 of whom acquired the disease.				Re-vac. in 1883				
18	,, 6, ,,	A.C.	21, Allerton Street ...	Doncaster	Painter, Resident	M	27	mild	In Infancy ...	From Case No. 17	,, 6, ,,	,, 2, ,,	Cured
			With this case there		were 9 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.				Re-vac.Oct.1903				
19	,, 10, ,,	D.A.	40, Prince's Street ..	Doncaster	Cab Driver, Resident	M	31	mild	In Infancy ...	From Case No. 16	,, 10, ,,	,, 24. ,,	Cured
			With this case there		were 4 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.								
					EIGHTH OUTBREAK.								
20	Nov. 1, ,,	T.C.	80, Dockin Hill Road	Doncaster	Blacksmith, Resident... ...	M	56	severe	In Infancy ...	Uncertain	Nov. 1, ,,	Dec. 31, ,,	Cured
			With the above case		there were 12 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.								
					NINTH OUTBREAK.								
21	,, 29, ,,	T.P.	1, St. Andrew's Ter....	Doncaster	Joiner, Resident	M	47	mild	In Infancy ...	Uncertain	,, 29, ,,	,, 31, ,,	Cured
			With the above case		there were 4 contacts, none of whom acquired the disease.								
					TENTH OUTBREAK.								
22	Dec. 29, ,,	R.B.	"Hawthornden," Thorne Road ...	Wheatley	Came from School at Bedford, on Dec. 18, 1903	M	17	mild	In Infancy & Dec. 30, 1903	Foreign	Dec. 29, ,,	Feb. 13, 1904	Cured
			With the above case		there were 8 contacts, 1 of whom acquired the disease.								

has again occurred for the third year in succession. Although Small-pox was epidemic in the West Riding during the whole of 1903, and although several cases of the disease occurred in the Borough of Doncaster, with which Wheatley is continuous, no case of the disease occurred within the District until the last week of December. The patient, who, residing in Thorne Road, had come from Bedford a few days previously, was at once removed to Hospital, the contacts re-vaccinated, the house and clothing disinfected, and all other necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease. While infection must certainly have been of foreign origin, enquiry at Bedford elicited the fact that no case of the disease had occurred there during the previous ten months. The disease was extremely mild in type. During the Autumn and early Winter months, Whooping Cough was epidemic in the District. In the great majority of the cases the disease was of a mild character, no fatal cases occuring.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

By arrangement with the Corporation of Doncaster, the Urban District of Wheatley has the right to have cases of Infectious Disease treated in either of the Infectious Disease Hospitals belonging to the former body. The Hospitals embrace an excellent Small-pox Hospital, modern in construction, and thoroughly complete, at Balby; and Carr House Hospital, for the common types of Infectious Disease. The Carr House Hospital is situated just outside the Borough, in the district of Carr House and Elmfield. The Hospital was formerly an old residential house, and, while its construction renders it somewhat costly and difficult to work, in other respects it makes a very suitable Hospital for the isolation of cases of Infectious Disease. Last year and this year very considerable alterations have been made; the most important of those effected being a small block to the typhoid fever portion of the building. The block giving two additional wards, in close proximity to the Nurse's room, for the reception of the more serious cases of Enteric Fever.

The arrangement with the Corporation of Doncaster also covers the disinfection of bedding and clothing from houses where Infectious cases have occurred, by the Steam Disinfector at the Hospital.

Of the twelve cases of Infectious Disease which were notified in Wheatley during the year 1903, 8 were removed to Hospital, in contrast with 12 in 1902. Of the 8 cases, 4 of Diphtheria, 2 Enteric Fever, and 1 Scarlet Fever were treated in Carr House Hospital, and 1 case of Small-pox in Balby Hospital. The percentage of patients removed to Hospital is nearly double that of 1902, being 67·5, in contrast with 35. Of the eight cases, 1 death occurred after a stay of eight days from Diphtheria. At the close of the year only the case of Small-pox was under treatment in Hospital from Wheatley. The average length of residence in Hospital of the discharged cases was 32 days.

GENERAL SANITATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Doncaster Corporation. The Water is a mixed water of good quality, rather hard, and obtained partly from the Doncaster Corporation Reservoir (supplied from a gathering ground) at Thrybergh, and partly from the Sheffield Corporation supply. None of the cases of Infectious Disease presented any features ascribeable to water borne infection.

HOUSE DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Wheatley is drained on the separate system, under agreement with the Doncaster Sanitary Authority, the surface water being excluded from the sewers. The sewers are all of modern construction, of glazed earthenware, laid with good falls and cement joints, and flushed by means of a flushing van hired for the purpose. The Sewers are ventilated by means of open manhole covers. During the year a ventilating shaft has been erected in Beckett Road, and another in St. Mary's Road has been raised. In both places complaints were frequently made regarding the presence of offensive smells. Since the change has been made, no further complaints have been made, and the ventilating shafts seem to have effected their purpose well.

The Sewage is disposed of by the Doncaster Sanitary Authority, and is pumped from a Station situated in the Borough of Doncaster, near the South-west Boundary of Wheatley, to a Sewage Farm upon the North-east Boundary of the District. Complaints, more particularly during the Summer months, used to be made regarding the odour from the Farm, but this year none have been made.

The House Drainage generally is of a satisfactory character, most of the houses having been built within the past twenty years. Sinks, lavatories, and baths are disconnected from the drains, and deliver upon trapped gullies. Internal water-closets have ventilating shafts, and generally those built externally.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

A line drawn through the centre of the built upon area from the North-east to the North-west, divides the houses into two classes, the Artisan dwellings being principally upon the Western side. The houses upon the Eastern side, of a rental of say £18 or upwards, are mostly supplied with water-closets, with, in many cases, a privy and ashpit in addition.

Under the Urban District Council an effort has been made, with great success, to avoid the erection of privies in new houses, and in many cases water-closets have been substituted for the privies attached to the older built houses, sanitary bins in the place of ashpits are becoming generally used.

The work of Excrement Disposal is let by yearly contract. The Ashpits are emptied each quarter, or oftener, if required. The Contractor has to find his own tip for both night-soil and dry refuse. A Bell Cart collects house rubbish every Friday.

COW-SHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILK-SHOPS.

There are only two Purveyors of Milk in the District, both of these are in a very small way of business.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The Act placed a new and important duty upon Local Authorities, viz. :—The Registration of Workshops and Workplaces, with the periodical inspection of such places. This has been done.

Under Section 132 of the Act, the Medical Officer of Health is required, in his Annual Report, to report specially on the administration of the Act, in Workshops and Workplaces, so far as the matters under the Council are concerned, and to send a copy of his Report on the subject to the Secretary of State. He has to report how far Local Authorities fulfil their obligation in causing Workshops and Workplaces to be registered, inspected, and kept in conformity with the Act.

In this District we have very few Workshops. There are at present only 9 upon the Register, the List including :—

3 Dressmaker's Workrooms.
1 Sugar Boiling Works.
2 Joiner's Shops.
3 Bakehouses.

These have been regularly inspected during the year by the Surveyor, and where any defects or infringements of the Act have been discovered attention has been called to them.

In concluding this short report, I desire to express my thanks for the courtesy and support which have been on all occasions extended to me by your Council.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1903.

AREA.

Of the 1,284 Acres forming the Parish of Wheatley, the built upon area of about 83 acres has not been extended during 1903.

The built upon area is enclosed by Thorne Road, Broxholme Lane, Wheatley Lane, Morley Road, and Avenue Road.

ROADS.

The Main Road maintained by the Council commences where the Footpath crosses from the left to the right side of the road before Green House, and extends to the point where the path again crosses over to the left side near the Doncaster Sewage Farm, the length being 93 chains.

150 tons of stone have been used in repairs during the past year upon this length.

The repair of the District Roads has been maintained, and Stanhope Road, the worst of the private roads, has been taken in hand, and is now being formed and paved under the direction of the Council.

BACK ROADS.

Two Back Roads have been drained and paved during the year, making a total of 29 completed in the last 4 years. Three further Back Roads are in hand, and one has been undertaken privately.

The paving and draining the through way between Highfield Road and St. Mary's Road has given much satisfaction to the many who use this road.

The beneficial result of paving back roads has been most marked during the past very wet season.

NEW HOUSES.

Thirty-two Houses have been built and practically completed during the year, viz. :—

Royal Avenue	16
Lockwood Road	6
Morley Road	10

Making a total number of houses in the District of 1044, as against 986 at the end of 1901, and 1012 at the end of 1902.

Twenty-one Houses are in course of erection.

PLANS.

Fifteen Plans have been considered and passed during the year, including 70 new houses and one bakehouse.

TRAMWAYS.

The Corporation Tramway to Avenue Road, viâ Highfield Road and King's Road, was opened for traffic on January 15th, 1903, and on August 7th, the extension along Broxholme Lane and Beckett Road.

LIGHTING.

The Lighting of Avenue Road has been improved by the addition of 3 New Lamps, and 5 others have been ordered for the district below Beckett Road. In the case of many of the existing lamps, Incandescent Burners have been substituted with beneficial effect.

PARISH ROOM.

Much needed repairs to the Parish Room have been undertaken and completed. The acquisition of a site for storing materials would be of much service.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

The Sewers have been flushed from time to time.

A Ventilation Shaft has been erected in Beckett Road, and one in St. Mary's Road has been raised.

In connection with New Houses, 27 inspections of drains have been made, and Highfield Road and Morley Road have been re-numbered.

ASHPITS.

It is satisfactory to note that no privies have been added in the district this year, and in the case of houses in Cranbrook Road, where privies had been passed under the Rural District Council, the owner was prevailed upon to substitute w.c.'s.

Ashpits have increased by 15, whereas 32 Sanitary Bins have been added, making a total of—

Dry Ashpits—Single	124	
Double	115	
		239
Wet Ashpits—Single	158	
Double	178	
		336
		575
Sanitary Bins, &c.		92

Two privies have been converted into w.c.'s.

Five Nuisances reported have been abated.

63 Notifications as to scavenging ashpits were made during the year, of which only 3 occurred during the last quarter.

The Scavenging of the District Roads has been well carried out, the Council considering the removal of dust more effective than using a Water Cart.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections have been made in 16 cases of Infectious Disease, as against 33 in 1902. In each an examination of the sanitary condition of the premises has been made, and reports furnished to the Medical Officer. Disinfection of the premises and drains has also been carried out.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Inspections have been made in connection with 3 Dressmakers' Workrooms, 1 Sugar Boiling Works, 2 Joiners' Shops, and 3 Bakehouses.

In the case of 2 Bakehouses, sanitary suggestions have been carried out.

One New Bakehouse has been added during the year.

COW-SHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILK-SHOPS.

There are only 2 Purveyors of Milk, and these are in quite a small way of business.

JOHN SIMMONS, M. Inst. C.E.,
SURVEYOR.

Bank Chambers, Doncaster,
January, 1904.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years.

WHEATLEY.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions. beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the district	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'd	Number.	Rate. *				Number.	Rate. *
1895.	2,551	66	25·5	9	136	34	13·3	—	—	—	34	13·3
1896.	2,729	80	29·3	8	100	28	10·2	—	—	—	28	10·2
1897.	2,907	94	32·3	15	159	39	13·4	—	—	—	39	13·4
1898.	3,085	103	33·3	12	116	28	9·1	—	—	—	28	9·1
1899.	3,263	104	31·8	18	173	41	12·5	—	—	—	41	12·5
1900.	3,441	119	34·5	22	185	47	13·6	—	2	2	47	13·6
1901.	3,623	117	32·3	18	171	40	11·0	—	—	—	40	11·0
1902.	3,800	106	27·9	5	47	34	8·9	—	—	5	39	10·2
Averages for years 1895-1902	3,175	98·5	31·0	13·3	135·8	36·3	11·4	—	0·25	0·87	37	11·6
1903.	3,980	126	31·6	18	142·8	46	11·5	0	0	4	50	12·6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages 3,579 at Census of 1901.

Area of District, exclusive of area covered by water, 1,276 acres.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District, none.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:—Doncaster Infirmary; Carr House Hospital; Balby Hospital; Union Workhouse; and Wadsley Asylum.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

WHEATLEY.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							No. of cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages †—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cholera...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	6	...	3	3	...	...	...	4
Membranous croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet fever	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	...	4	3	3	2	...	8

Isolation Hospitals, Carr House Hospital, in Carr House and Elmfield (Rural). Balby Hospital, in Balby (Urban).

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1903.

WHEATLEY.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever — Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever — Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever — Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	5	...	...	...	2	3	...
Other tubercular diseases	4	2	1	...	...	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of liver	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Accidents	4	1	...	1	...	2	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	21	8	2	...	...	3	8
All causes	50	18	6	1	2	13	10